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DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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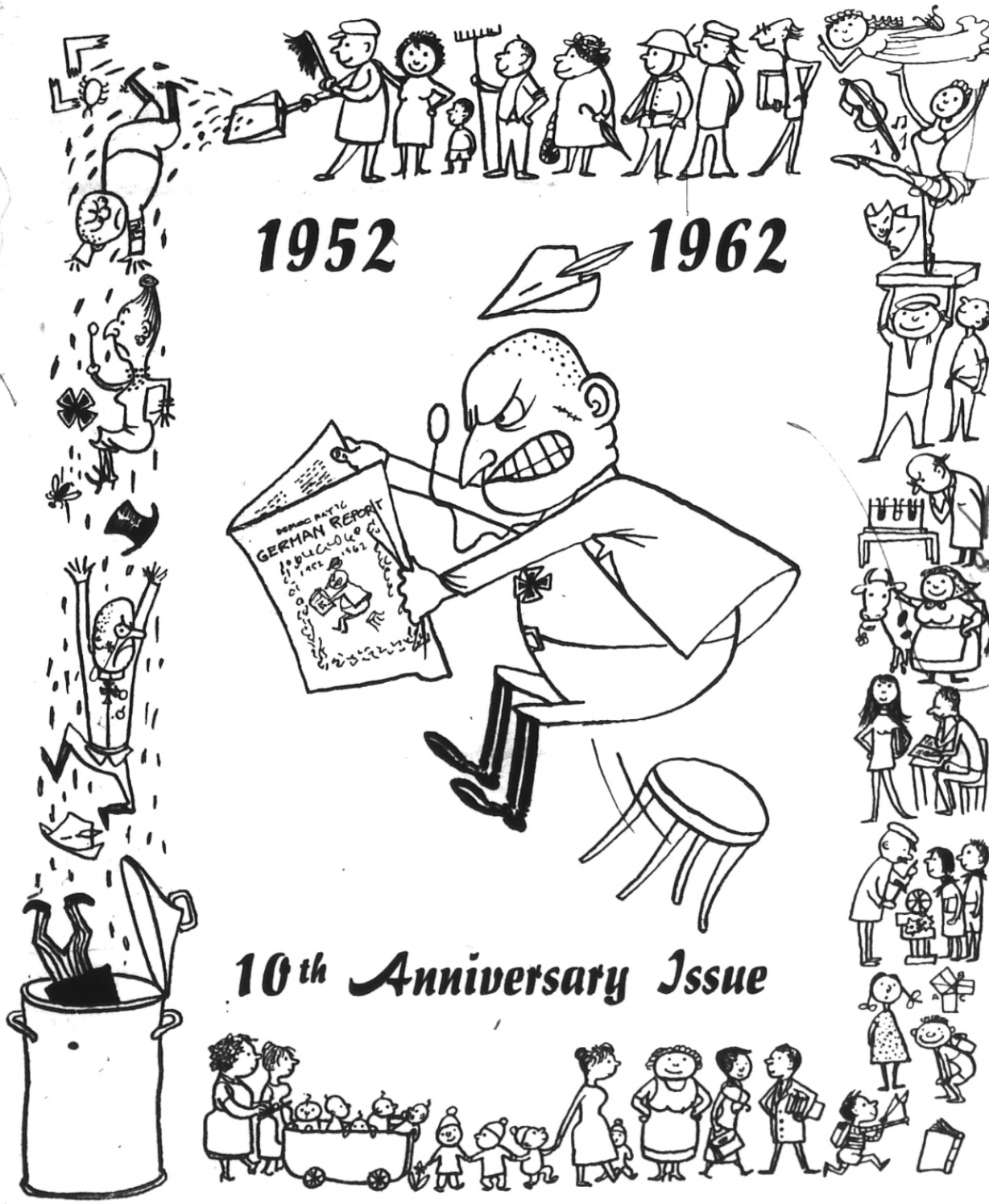

WE TOLD YOU SO

By the Editor

The first issue of the paper you are now reading was published just ten years ago, on January 18th 1952. In that issue I published an editorial statement setting out the situation in the two German states as I saw it, and in particular warning of the re-nazification and re-militarisation of West Germany.

I would be only too happy if my forecast had been wrong, and if Germany had become a force for peace in the world. But unfortunately, I was right. West Germany is today not only re-armed, but is well on the way to getting nuclear arms.

Happily, the other part of the forecast was correct too. East Germany, the German Democratic Republic, which ten years ago was an unknown country to most people in the western world, has made giant steps forward.

On this page I reprint, in its entirety, the leading article from the first issue of GERMAN REPORT. Almost every sentence is still valid today: only on one point is a word of correction necessary. In 1952 it was still possible to contemplate the relatively easy solution of the German problem by holding elections throughout Germany.

Today a mechanical solution of this sort is out of the question. First, the two German states must be neutralised, and then some form of confederation between them must be worked out. Only after such steps have been taken will it be possible to hold elections to establish a united Germany which will never again be a threat to the peace of the world.

Here, below, is the ten-year-old editorial.

Seven years ago at this season, American, British and Russian citizens, together with men from a dozen other nations, were fighting their way across the frontiers of Germany to end the reign of aggressive and brutal nazism, which had brought death and destruction to half the world.

In May 1945 the fight was ended, and in August Stalin, Truman and Attlee signed the Potsdam agreement which stated: "German militarism and nazism will be extirpated, and the Allies will take... the other measures necessary to assure that Germany never again will threaten her neighbours or the peace of the world."

The signatories pledged themselves to democratise Germany, to split up excessive monopolies and trusts, to bring war criminals to judgement, and above all, to preserve German unity.

Only six and a half years later militarism and nazism are firmly back in the saddle again in one part of Germany, war criminals have been released and granted fat pensions, armaments monopolists like Krupp have regained power, and the open formation of a new Wehrmacht, commanded by Hitler's old generals and ready to threaten the peace of the world again, is just round the corner.

And the other part of Germany? If one is to believe the big-business press in the English-speaking world, East Germany is a zone of terror and starvation, ruled by hundreds of thousands of ruthless police who are likely to attack the west at any moment.

Up to June 1950 I was chief correspondent in West Berlin for Reuters, the British press news agency. In this capacity I saw and experienced from the inside the way in which the truth about developments was being perverted. I saw how certain British and American circles were driving ahead with their campaign to give guns back to the nazi murderers, and how they were distracting attention by circulating the most monstrous stories about alleged developments in East Germany, the German Democratic Republic.

I saw too, as any unbiased observer on the spot must see, that the true situation was quite different, and that in the German Democratic Republic Junker militarism had been banished forever, that the factories had been taken away from the war criminals, and that the key positions in government and administration were held by men and women who had fought against Hitler and who now were devoting their entire energy to helping the German people, for the first time in history, along the road to real democracy.

Eighteen months ago, seeing the truth, I severed my connection with Reuters, which like all other great Anglo-American news agencies was acting as an agent of big business in the drive for war, and since then I have been living and working in the German Democratic Republic, working side by side with the men and women who are putting their backs into the great task of building a new, a better, and above all a peaceful Germany.

Because events in Germany today are a key to the peace of the world, and because most readers in the English-speaking world have so little opportunity to read the truth about the German situation, I have decided to publish DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT, the first number of which you are now reading.

Once a fortnight, GERMAN REPORT will bring you the real news about Germany, the news which most other papers suppress — the news on the regrowth of nazism, militarism and imperialism in West Germany and of the people's resistance to this on the one hand, and on the other the news about the new and better Germany, about the sinking prices and rising wages and young people who work for peace and not for war in the German Democratic Republic.

Above all, GERMAN REPORT will bring you news of the powerful movement for German unity and peace which has millions of supporters in all parts of Germany, the movement for free democratic elections throughout Germany which will make it possible to form an all-German democratic government. The formation of such a government and the subsequent signing of a peace treaty and the withdrawal of all occupation troops would be a decisive step to lessen the tension in the world today and ensure peace.

In June 1950, when I left the service of Reuters, the London head office of that firm was forced to issue a public statement that my reports from Berlin had always been "objective and exact".

In GERMAN REPORT, we shall endeavour to give readers exact and objective news of the German scene today, letting facts speak for themselves.

But GERMAN REPORT should not just provide you with interesting reading. We aim to provide you with facts and arguments which will serve you as ammunition in the campaign in your country against German remilitarisation, the campaign for the conclusion of a peace treaty with a unified, democratic and peace-loving Germany.

The next few months will be of vital importance for Germany, for Europe and for world peace. GERMAN REPORT will keep abreast of events in Germany, and show how you can help to stop World War III.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A Selection of Anniversary Greetings

For your tenth anniversary my heartiest greetings and my thanks for the fact that in GERMAN REPORT you tell so soberly and incisively how things really are here. Although the Cold War can not reach the degree of horror of a hot war, it remains nevertheless the most frightful poisoning of the atmosphere on both sides of the Golden Curtain.

As your grateful old comrade I am glad to testify that your journalistic vigilance and ability provide us every fourteen days with a contribution which helps to clear the atmosphere.

Arnold Zweig, Berlin, GDR

(Arnold Zweig, German novelist, won world fame with his great anti-war book "The Case of Sergeant Grischa")

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I wish every success and more and more readers for GERMAN REPORT in 1962. It is pithy, newsy, highly readable and contains badly needed information that is difficult to find elsewhere.

Konni Zilliacus, M. P., London, England

*

GERMAN REPORT performs a valuable function in the English-speaking world; it helps towards a better understanding of both German states and their problems, problems which today affect international public opinion.

From GERMAN REPORT one can learn important facts which are suppressed by almost the entire press of Britain, America, Canada and Australia; in addition this information on the real facts about Germany is presented not only without distortion, but also in a polished journalistic style.

In the interests of anti-militarist international understanding I wish GERMAN REPORT, this courageous David of the press, a steadily increasing circle of readers.

Albert Norden, Berlin, GDR

(Professor Albert Norden is a member of the Political Bureau of the Socialist Unity Party)

*

As a teacher of German in a Grammar School, I am naturally anxious that pupils should have some idea of present-day conditions in Germany. Over the past year we have received, unrequested, pamphlets issued by the West German Embassy which give a very one-sided picture of present-day Germany. I therefore ordered your bulletin in order to redress the balance both for myself and pupils. I must say that it is much appreciated. Might it be possible for you to devote a little more space to cultural events in the GDR and to youth activities? It only remains for me to wish you a happy anniversary and a very good New Year.

W. G. W., Britain

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Results of a public opinion poll recently published in the Conservative "Daily Telegraph" showed that 59% of those queried were in favour of Britain recognising the GDR, and only about 10% were opposed.

This fact, together with the steadily expanding relations between the GDR and Britain in the political, economic and cultural fields, shows that a great majority of British citizens have a realistic approach to the problems connected with the establishment of lasting peace in central Europe.

The steady growth in understanding for the struggle of the GDR against West German militarism and revanchism and for the conclusion of a peace treaty is of course mainly due to the changed relations of strength in the world, but I feel that the work done in the past ten years by GERMAN REPORT has made a considerable contribution to this process of re-thinking in Britain.

My heartiest greetings on the occasion of your tenth anniversary, and my best wishes for success in the next decade.

Gerald Goetting, General Secretary of the Christian Democratic Union of the GDR

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I would like to send my heartiest wishes to you and your colleagues on the tenth birthday of GERMAN REPORT.

I regard your paper as very useful and important; for ten years now it has reported objectively, interestingly and intelligently on developments in the GDR. This has made it possible for English-speaking readers to make a picture for themselves as to the really new things which are happening in Germany.

The new factor is naturally not that there are still plenty of imperialists and militarists in Germany, and that they control one German state: the new factor is that there is another German state which is pursuing a completely new policy, a policy which is not only in the interests of the Germans, but also in the interests of all other peoples.

It is impossible to thank you enough that you, as an Englishman, and undoubtedly an English patriot, have taken on the task of observing and analysing these developments, and regularly informing the English-speaking world, which is otherwise so badly informed, on the results of your observations.

Gerhart Eisler, Berlin, GDR

(Professor Eisler is Deputy Chairman of the GDR Radio)

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I should like to congratulate you on this anniversary on the trouble your paper has taken to inform people of the truth about policy and life here in the GDR. You have excellently succeeded in this, I can say. I am a reader of GERMAN REPORT for about two years... What I dislike with the paper is the small volume; to grow more voluminous seems to be the desire of many readers. For your further work, very much success.

Manfred Mueller, Burgstaedt, GDR

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GERMAN REPORT is an invaluable guide for those seeking reliable information on the role of the new Socialist Germany in the current world situation. Its contents are of immeasurable consequence in the campaign against the lies and misrepresentations propagated by the capitalist press and other like media. Hearty congratulations on your tenth birthday. Long live friendship between the working peoples of the German Democratic Republic and Britain.

John M. Bloom, Croydon, England

(This is a personal message from Mr Bloom, Chairman of the Political Committee of the South Suburban Co-operative Society)

FROM OUR CLIPPINGS ALBUM

Notes on GERMAN REPORT from the Western World

"Military intelligence officers have been sent to Berlin to investigate a Communist fortnightly news sheet 'Democratic German Report' which is being sent to troops stationed in Germany and trade union leaders in Britain. They have discovered that it is being produced by a Briton, John Peet, who went to live in East Berlin in June 1950... Peet has been ordered to write a book portraying 'appalling conditions' in Britain. Peet was summoned to GDR secret police H.Q. and told he would either write the book or be arrested for espionage."

(Unidentified British newspaper clipping, May 1952)

Editor's note: The intelligence officers had a hard job; they had to read the small print on the back page of the paper. I never wrote the book; perhaps I have been in prison ever since.

"MR PEET DOESN'T FOOL ROEDEAN... John Peet's office is at the top of three flights of narrow stairs just off Unter den Linden. Here he runs a busy little office, for John Peet is the only British Iron Curtain editor...

"Circulation? 'Not a serious competitor — yet — of the Daily Express,' said Peet with a rather wry smile, 'but you can say circulation is very satisfactory and rising. One reply from Roedean, the £260-a-year girl's boarding school at Brighton: 'Your paper is not subtle enough to deceive English people.'

"Still, as John Peet said while we sipped our second cup of State-coffee, producing Democratic German Report brings him a living. And he looks well on it — if as gawky as ever he did in the days of his 'Western warmongering'."

("Daily Express", London, November 28th 1952)

"John Peet is still in East Berlin. He has an office at the top of three flights of rickety stairs in an old building in the Friedrich-strasse, and there, every month, he publishes in English a propaganda sheet called 'German Democratic Report'. For him his job must have proved a disappointing and disheartening task."

("Evening News", London, September 18th 1953)

Editor's note: Those three flights of stairs seem to get the British press down.

"Today Peet has a little office... three creaky flights of stairs... gawky figure... For him the road eastwards has led nowhere."

("Evening News", London, February 13th 1956)

Editor's note: Except up those three flights of stairs.

"Mr John Peet, a British journalist who chose Soviet freedom three years ago, surprised East and West alike — and himself most of all — by turning up (at a press reception) in dinner dress, the only one to be seen in the assembly."

("News Chronicle", London, February 1st 1954)

"John Peet was present (at the reception mentioned above, ed.). According to his former colleagues he had changed from a correct and sartorially exquisite Briton into a shabby East German."

("Algemeen Handelsblad", Holland, February 4th 1954)

"From year to year Peet has been becoming more and more proletarianised...

"Since the middle of last week he once again wears a fashionable checked waistcoat as he used to do."

("Spiegel", West Germany, February 2nd 1954)

Editor's note: Nominations for best-dressed (or worst-dressed) man behind the Curtain are now being accepted.

"Peet started publishing the 'German Democratic Report' in 1951. It, however, faded out... at the begin-

PROPHETIC 1952 CARTOON

We first printed this cartoon on August 15th 1952

"Hey you! Don't you know you have to salute allied officers?"

ning of 1953, at which time John Peet, too, was last heard of.

"Now, however, renegade Peet must be back from somewhere... The great danger of this publication lies in the fact that it so skillfully mixes truth with slander that careless or uninformed readers might assume all of it to be true. Peet undoubtedly being a very able journalist increases the danger of deception for the reader, since a well-disguised lie is more liable to find dupes than a clumsy and obvious one."

("The Bulletin", official West German weekly, Bonn, November 26th 1953)

"The anaemic and bureaucratic English-language 'Bulletin' published in Bonn cannot compete with the Democratic German Report from East Berlin, which is cleverly filled with half-truths."

("Deutsche Zeitung", West Germany, March 29th 1960)

"All issues of 'Democratic German Report', a magazine published in Berlin, were banned by a notice in the Government Gazette yesterday."

("Rand Daily Mail", South Africa, February 7th 1953)

"Lionel Morrison, a young Coloured student, has been sentenced to a fine of £20, or three months imprisonment. He was found in possession of 'World Youth' and 'Democratic German Report'."

"New Age", Capetown, July 14th 1955)

"John Peet, who publishes a paper aimed at leftist circles in Britain, supplies Labour MPs with material on the alleged 're-fascisation' of the Federal Republic. This 'information' then promptly turns up in the form of questions in the House of Commons."

("Neue Zürcher Zeitung", Switzerland, February 16th 1959)

"West Germans who have come to London with Dr Adenauer are surprised, and somewhat troubled, to find Mr John Peet one of the accompanying journalists. In 1950... Mr Peet went to East Germany... and there, through a news-letter published in Leipzig and other channels, he has been engaged in psychological cold war against the West and Anglo-German accord in particular... Some attacks on what is regarded as laxity on our part will be appearing in the West German Press about this... Our authorities had no power to stop Mr Peet from coming... I only hope they know he is here."

(Peterborough in "Daily Telegraph", London, November 19th 1959)

"The imminent departure of Dr Hasso von Etzdorf to London has provoked a new outburst of scurrilous attacks against him by the east German communists... One particularly vicious attempt to blacken the new Ambassador in the eyes of the British public appeared in a recent issue of German Report, an east German publication in English, whose editor has many members of parliament and prominent people on his English circulation list..."

("The Times", London, September 15th 1961)

"The East German propaganda sheet, German Report, regularly grinds its axe against former Nazis in high places under the Adenauer regime. But while I would treat anything from this source with the greatest caution, I feel one cannot ignore the allegations made against Hasso von Etzdorf, the new ambassador from Bonn, who is to arrive in London this month."

("New Statesman", London, September 22nd 1961)

Nuts in May — and Other Months

In these columns we reproduce a choise selection of mad and sad quotations from the western world gleaned from the pages of back issues of GERMAN REPORT.

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"The Soviet-German authorities have been forced to reduce prices once again because of the sales crisis in their allegedly so-well-planned economy. In order to make the best of a bad case they have had to represent this price reduction as a great success, and as a step to the improvement of the standard of living."

"Neue Zeitung", West Germany, December 8th 1951

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"The announcement of selective service in West Germany makes it necessary to see to it that those persons who are not selected to serve in the new army do not suffer from an inferiority complex".

"Tagesspiegel", West Berlin, January 20th 1952

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"It sure has been a thrill to see the Stars and Stripes so brave
From London down to Naples and upon the briny wave
Teaching the backward peoples of the olden world to be
Intelligent and tolerant and noble, just like we.
So onward billions! On billions! Conquer All!"

Columnist Westbrook Pegler in the Hearst Press, USA, March 1952

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"Mr Bowles (Nuneaton, Labour) asked whether the Under-Secretary was aware that Vickers at Brooklands had been bombed by a German who learned to fly there... Mr Dodds-Parker, (Under-Secretary, Foreign Office, Conservative) said he hoped it would not happen again. (Laughter)."

"The Times", London, February 2nd 1954

"The German Communist Party is preparing publication of a new and revised Bible. Theme of the Red Bible will be that Jesus was poor, had no money, no property. Goal of the distorted version — to convert religious peasants to the cause of Communism."

"New York Herald Tribune", June 9th 1954

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"Seven trumpets and trombones were brought up for a loyalty hearing Friday before the East Meadow, New York, authorities. The instruments were made in Communist East Germany... School authorities demanded that they be replaced by non-Communist horns after hearing of their origin."

"Leader and Press", Springfield USA, November 7th 1954

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"The German generals were the strongest opponents of Hitler's war."

Herr von Eckhardt, West German Press Chief, Geneva, May 29th 1959

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"You catch the next train (to West Berlin, ed.) and you somehow have a feeling of immense relief when you cross the frontier again with the neon lights, the street hawkers selling the latest edition of an evening newspaper, and a couple of ladies of the town pacing round the entrance of a juke box dive. You are home again."

West Berliner quoted in "The Listener", London, March 17th 1960

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"The State Department has refused to let Government physicians attend an international symposium on poliomyelitis in Moscow next week because Communist Chinese and East German delegations will also be present.

"New York Times" May 12th 1960

NEWS FROM YESTERDAY

Extracts from notable news items and articles printed in GERMAN REPORT over the past 10 years

1952

"Liquidation Inc."

The U. S. authorities in West Germany have raised, trained, armed and financed a secret terrorist organisation which plans to "liquidate" leading Social Democrats and trade unionists.

Details of this organisation were uncovered by the local West German police of Hessen Province, American Zone, and announced by Georg August Zinn, Prime Minister of the province, who was himself one of the leading Social Democrats on the list.

The police arrested the ring-leaders of the gang, which described itself as "Technical Organisation of the Federation of German Youth".

The arrested men, mainly former S. S. officers, were all released by the police on the instructions of the Federal authorities. "This organisation was established on the orders of the occupation authorities and does not fall under German jurisdiction" the Federal Prosecutor stated, ordering their release.

GERMAN REPORT, October 15th 1952

1953

The Hard Sell

The West German Government will pay a New York public relations firm over a quarter of a million dollars during 1953 to "sell" the American people on the renazification and remilitarisation which is going on there.

The firm which is getting all this money is the "Roy Bernard Co.", 14 East 62 Street, New York. What do they get it for? The West German newsmagazine "Spiegel" of February 18th provided some of the answers:

"Inspiring and encouraging pro-German (pro-West-German, ed.) articles and picture stories. In 1952 there were about 100 of these in papers ranging from the 'New York Times' to the 'Texas Times'.

"Stopping or correcting anti-German reports (anti-West-German, ed.). When Wilhelm Schepmann, former Chief of Staff of the Storm Troopers, was elected in a local West German election in November 1952, the firm 'Roy Bernard' was able to stop a press campaign against Germany."

(So the next time American readers find a slushy piece about the good-hearted nazi generals being released from war criminal jail, they will know who is paying for it.)

GERMAN REPORT, February 27th 1953

1954

Murderer Released

SS General Kurt Meyer, sentenced to death for murdering Canadian prisoners of war, was released by the British authorities in West Germany on September 7th.

On his release Meyer received the following marks of appreciation for his war crimes:

1. He was given a screaming welcome by several thousands of nazi-minded citizens of Moenchen-Gladbach, his home town, headed by the town fire brigade band: SS veterans presented him with a huge cake iced with the words "free at last".
2. He was given the free use of a new red convertible car by the grateful directors of the Auto-Union motor company.
3. He was given an executive job in a large brewery at Hagen.
4. The West German government paid him out 4,800 marks (about 1000 dollars) compensation for his imprisonment.
5. He was due to draw his full pension as a retired general as soon as the necessary formalities were completed.

Ex-General Meyer was sentenced to death in December 1945 for shooting 18 Canadian prisoners of war in Normandy. The sentence was later changed to life imprisonment, then reduced to fifteen years.

GERMAN REPORT, September 17th 1954

Bound Volumes

Reading these pages of recent history, you may wish that you had full details of some of the stories outlined here. We still have available a few bound and indexed volumes of GERMAN REPORT for the years 1954 to 1960 inclusive. They cost £1 or $3 per year, and can be ordered direct from:

DGR
167 Friedrich Strasse
Berlin W 8
German Democratic Republic

1955

Operation "Black Pump"

Thousands of East German construction workers have begun work on "Operation Black Pump", the plan to increase many-fold the production and processing of soft coal in the German Democratic Republic.

Scene of the operation is the area of Hoyerswerda, a small market town about one hundred miles south-east of Berlin. Geological investigations in this area have shown the existence of 30,000 million tons of soft coal, which can be dug by the open-cast process with a minimum of manual labour.

Operation Black Pump has been named after the "Gasthaus zur Schwarzen Pumpe", or "Black Pump Inn", a lonely country inn standing near the site of the newly projected industrial giant.

GERMAN REPORT, September 16th 1955

1956

Operation "Wire-Tap"

American spies have driven an underground tunnel 300 yards into the territory of the German Democratic Republic to intercept and tap international trunk telephone lines, it was revealed in East Berlin on April 21st.

The spy tunnel, which had been constructed in defiance of all normal standards of international behavior, ran from an American building, allegedly a radar station, in the American-occupied sector of Berlin, to a main telephone cable in Altglienicke, 300 yards inside East Berlin.

Here 160 telephone lines, including important international lines, had been tapped, and connected to American and British recording and amplifying equipment, valued at several million dollars. The tunnel, which was about 15 feet below ground level, was reinforced with steel gird-

Adenauer: "We are prepared to accept your German rearmanent programme on condition that we sell you the arms that you rearm us with."

(This "Daily Express" cartoon was printed in German Report on August 6th 1954)

ers, and was air-conditioned and electrically lit from the American sector.

GERMAN REPORT,
May 11th 1956

1957

Brecht's "Galileo"

In the middle of January theatre critics and playgoers from all over Europe travelled to Berlin. They made the journey for the sole purpose of attending the premiere in East Berlin of a great play "The Life of Galileo Galilei", by Bertolt Brecht, outstanding German dramatist who died last year. The journey was worth while, for the play, presented by Brecht's own theatre, the "Berliner Ensemble", was one of the high points of European theatrical life in this or any other year.

GERMAN REPORT,
February 15th 1957

1958

Confederation Plan

A confederation between the two existing German states is the only path to German reunification, Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, reiterated in an interview with a West German newspaperman, published on February 16th.

Mr Ulbricht suggested that the first step towards such a confederation would have to be agreement between East and West Germany on the banning of atomic weapons in both parts of Germany, and steps towards the withdrawal of foreign troops from German territory.

GERMAN REPORT,
February 28th 1958

1959

Generals, Envoys, Judges

Every single one of the generals and admirals commanding the West German armed forces today held a responsible position in Hitler's forces, according to a survey conducted by the Committee for German Unity in Berlin.

GERMAN REPORT,
February 27th 1959

If you take a map of the world, and mark in red each city where an old nazi is today working as a West German diplomat, you will find you have given the map a fine case of West German measles.

The vast majority of senior officials of the West German Foreign Ministry are former members of the nazi party.

GERMAN REPORT,
June 5th 1959

Investigations in the nazi archives preserved in Berlin have now shown that at least 1000 of the judges and public prosecutors today working in West Germany worked in similar positions in nazi special courts. They were responsible for many thousands of death sentences on German and foreign anti-fascists and other persons who had committed minor offences.

GERMAN REPORT,
November 20th 1959

1960

Farmers Pool Fields

The old patchwork-quilt look of the countryside in the German Democratic Republic has vanished for ever. Since spring this year all farmers have joined agricultural production cooperatives, or collective farms, generally known by the abbreviation of LPG "Landwirtschaftliche Produktionsgenossenschaft".

The little strips of fields, planted with differing crops by the smallholders, have vanished, and been replaced by broad fields which can be economically tended.

GERMAN REPORT,
August 5th 1960

1961

Storm Troop Ambassador

In the next few weeks a former Lieutenant-Colonel of Hitler's brown-uniformed storm troops will arrive in London to take up his post as West German Ambassador to the Court of St James. He is Hasso von Etzdorf, highest-ranking nazi to occupy the traditional German Embassy building in London since his old boss, executed war criminal Joachim von Ribbentrop, represented Hitler in London in 1936.

GERMAN REPORT,
September 1st 1961

RADIO REPORT ON THE GDR

"In East Berlin all faces are marked by hunger and privation ...

... rigid regimentation, not a trace of freedom ...

... old and young are brutally led away by the police ...

... no one dares to smile, let alone open his mouth ...

... the innocent victims of oppression flee to the West ...

... many simply disappear

This cartoon, drawn by Elizabeth Shaw, was originally printed in GERMAN REPORT on July 9th 1954

. . . and here is news from today . . .

ARREST HEUSINGER - Soviet Demand

The Soviet Union demanded on December 12th that the United States Government should arrest West German General Adolf Heusinger as a war criminal. General Heusinger, Chairman of the Military Committee of NATO, has his residence in Washington, USA.

The Soviet note stated in part:

"In the course of the study by competent Soviet agencies of captured documents from the military archives of nazi Germany, documents were found which prove that Adolf Heusinger, former Chief of Operations of Hitler's Army General Staff, is guilty of... crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

(The Soviet note then gave details of the allied war-time and post-war agreements under which war criminals were to be brought to justice in the countries in which they had committed their crimes.)

"Documentary evidence proves irrefutably that Heusinger, while occupying key posts in Hitler's Wehrmacht, participated directly in the planning, preparation and implementation of aggression by nazi Germany against the Soviet Union, Britain, Yugoslavia, France, Greece and other European countries. According to the generally recognised standards of international law, such acts constitute crimes against peace.

"Heusinger committed particularly grave crimes against the Soviet people. It has been established that starting from August 1942, Heusinger was in charge of the punitive operations of the Hitlerite forces in occupied Soviet territory, and that he organised bloody reprisals against the civilian population.

"He bears personal responsibility for the drafting and execution of criminal ordinances and instructions for punitive detachments which sanctioned the commission of every atrocity against the peaceful population. On Heusinger's direct orders the punitive forces carried out the mass liquidation of prisoners of war, shootings of hostages, including women, children and old people, and the razing of villages...

"The Soviet Union expects the United States to take measures to arrest and hand over to the Soviet Union Adolf Heusinger, who is at present on United States territory, so that he may be brought to trial for the crimes which he committed."

The United States refused to accept the Soviet note on Heusinger, and returned it to the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

"The Times" of London, in a leading article on December 21st, called for the evidence against Heusinger to be examined: "They (the Soviets) have produced the evidence upon which their charges are presumably based, and it is right that it should be examined. If the documents are genuine — and they have all the outward signs of authenticity — what they disclose must bear upon the Russian case."

The West German Ministry of Defence, replying to the Soviet demand for Heusinger's arrest, solemnly stated that Heusinger had "a stainless past and personality".

The West German announcement then attempted to dispose of the various points in the Soviet note. It stated:

"The note charges that General Heusinger worked out the plans for the attacks on the Soviet Union, Britain, etc. Heusinger never drafted any plans of any sort. He simply prepared plans on the basis of orders which he had received. He never took part in any political decisions.

"The Soviet note alleges that Heusinger was responsible for the murder of POWs, shooting of hostages, and the execution of civilians. These accusations are not new... No normal Soviet citizen takes such allegations seriously, since he knows that the Soviet partisans themselves undertook punitive campaigns against the peaceful Soviet civilian population. The Soviets themselves have contradicted, in their partisan literature, the charges made against General Heusinger. It is well known that the partisans ruthlessly killed everybody who collaborated with the Germans. The partisan leader Fedorov, for instance, in his book 'The Illegal District Committee' stated:

'In one four month period the partisan forces of one district killed 368 Germans and in addition 105 policemen, village headmen, and other traitors to the homeland'."

GERMAN REPORT comments: *This official West German defence of Heusinger has been quoted at such length to show the attitude of the West German military leadership. The claim that Heusinger "simply prepared plans on the basis of orders received" is the classical defence submitted by all nazi war criminals from Eichmann down to the lowest concentration camp guard. The incredible attempt to make the partisans responsible for the mass murders in the occupied areas of the Soviet Union is even more enlightening. It shows that the men who today run the West German Wehrmacht are still convinced that it was perfectly right and proper for them to carry fire and the sword through the western part of the Soviet Union, and that the Russian and Ukrainian quislings whom they managed to recruit to help them were "the peaceful Soviet civilian population." In their eyes the Soviet citizens who fought against them were the criminals.*

The West German Government has not yet made the claim that the millions of Jews, Gypsies and other persons liquidated by the nazis in fact committed mass suicide in order to cast a slur on the name of German militarism. It would, however, be logical for them to take this step.

Heusinger Plots with Birchists

West German General Adolf Heusinger has recently held secret meetings in Washington with leading members of the extreme right-wing "John Birch Society", the Paris weekly "La Tribune des Nations" reported on December 15th. The newspaper stated:

"It has recently come to light that Heusinger has close links with the John Birch Society, the American pro-fascist group which regards Eisenhower and Kennedy as pro-communists. One of the leading members of this society is General Wedemeyer, former commander of US troops in China, who makes no secret in Washington of the fact that his full sympathies lie with 'eternal Germany'.

"Recently a secret meeting was held, details of which soon became known in informed circles in Washington. At this meeting Heusinger met Wedemeyer, Fellers, Willoughby, the former chief of the OSS in the Far East, and General Walker, who was recently recalled from his command in Germany. It is known that at this meeting plans were considered as to the best way in which the United States could be persuaded to arm the Bonn Bundeswehr with nuclear weapons."

GDR PROTESTS AUTOBAHN MISUSE

The Government of the GDR has protested to the US Government against the misuse of the autobahn, the motor-highway which runs over 100 miles of GDR territory between West Germany and West Berlin.

On December 13th the GDR Government addressed an official note to Washington stating in part:

"For some time US military forces under NATO command have been conducting provocative troop movements on the autobahn of the German Democratic Republic between Marienborn and West Berlin. On December 1st 1961 American HQ announced that all official agencies of the US occupation troops in West Berlin had been incorporated in the US 7th Army, which forms an integral part of the NATO forces. Further, the US units stationed in West Berlin have been included in NATO manoeuvres in West Germany. A few days ago the Supreme Command of US Forces in Europe confirmed that the units which have been conducting troop movements on the GDR autobahn are in fact NATO units.

"The Government of the GDR is forced to regard it as an aggressive act when the occupation troops in West Berlin are placed under the command of the NATO Army in West Germany. West Berlin lies on the territory of the German Democratic Republic, and does not in any way belong to the NATO area.

"This step ... cannot be reconciled with the terms of the Potsdam Agreement and the peaceful interests of the German people. In fact it is further confirmation that there is no longer any legal basis for the presence of US troops in West Berlin.

"The German Democratic Republic is a sovereign state, and this implies its unlimited sovereignty over the traffic routes in its territory. Hitherto, in the interests of reaching an understanding on a German peace treaty and the West Berlin problem ... the GDR has tolerated the supply traffic for the western occupation garrisons in West Berlin; as a temporary measure supervision of this traffic has been entrusted to the Soviet forces stationed in the GDR on the basis of the Warsaw Pact.

"The Government of the GDR points out emphatically that it has never given its agreement to the passage of NATO troops to and from West Berlin, which does not form part of NATO.

"The movement of US NATO troops outside the NATO area ... is a threat to peaceful coexistence and makes a peaceful solution of international problems more difficult...

"In addition, the Government of the GDR points out that the transport of US troops on the autobahn interferes with normal civilian traffic on this busy traffic artery, and endangers life and property. The roads of the GDR are exposed to particular stresses and damage ... and the Government of the GDR reserves the right to claim compensation for such results of these troop transports.

"The Government of the GDR protests most strongly against the illegal and provocative movement of American NATO units on the territory of the GDR, and demands that these aggressive acts should cease without delay."

Footnote: Commenting on the GDR protest, a US military spokesman stated that the US troops concerned were in fact NATO troops only as long as they were on West German territory. The moment they crossed the border into the GDR they underwent an invisible change, ceasing to be NATO forces, and becoming members of the US garrison in West Berlin.

"Dr A in Arms Deal Shock"

– says Daily Express

The West German Government is using multi-million pound arms orders to ensure a pro-Adenauer course in American foreign policy, the London "Daily Express" charged on December 9th. The paper reported:

"A £500 million secret arms deal between (West)Germany and the US, negotiated while Chancellor Konrad Adenauer was in Washington last month, has raised gravest suspicions in Whitehall.

"The Government suspects that in return for placing greatly increased arms orders with US firms Adenauer secured a pro-German change in the Western policy over Berlin.

"The British Government understood that President Kennedy was to take a tough line with Adenauer. He was to be told that he must accept the existence of the wall across Berlin and the post-war boundaries separating East Germany from Poland.

"He was also to be told that it was useless to press publicly for reunification of East and West Germany because it was unattainable. Now it is believed that Adenauer secured the removal of these conditions in return for placing two orders for tanks, lorries, guns, radar and ammunition, each worth more than £250 million."

Men "More Equal" Than Women?

The Political Bureau of the Socialist Unity Party issued a strong statement in Berlin on December 23rd, criticising the fact that women, although theoretically equal to men in the German Democratic Republic, are in fact often kept in subordinate positions.

"Men in leading positions in the Party, the state, the economy and the trade unions still under-estimate the role to be played by women in socialist society" the statement said.

The Political Bureau pointed out that nearly 70% of all women of working age in fact went out to work, but that only a small proportion of them occupied leading positions. "Equality for women does not simply mean paying them the same for the same work, but also respecting their work, and being polite to them. In many cases women who do occupy leading positions are overloaded with tasks; they are often expected to do better than a man in a similar position. Many leading officials believe that a woman has to 'prove her worth' by special achievement."

The statement called for a radical and swift change in this state of affairs.

De-Marxification

The city council of Bonn, West German capital, has decided to rename "Karl-Marx-Strasse" named after the German founder of scientific socialism. In future the street will be called "Maxstrasse" after an obscure German general.

Book Review

American Author Takes Good Look at "New Germany and Old Nazis"

"The New Germany and the Old Nazis", by T. H. Tetens. New York, Random House. $4.95

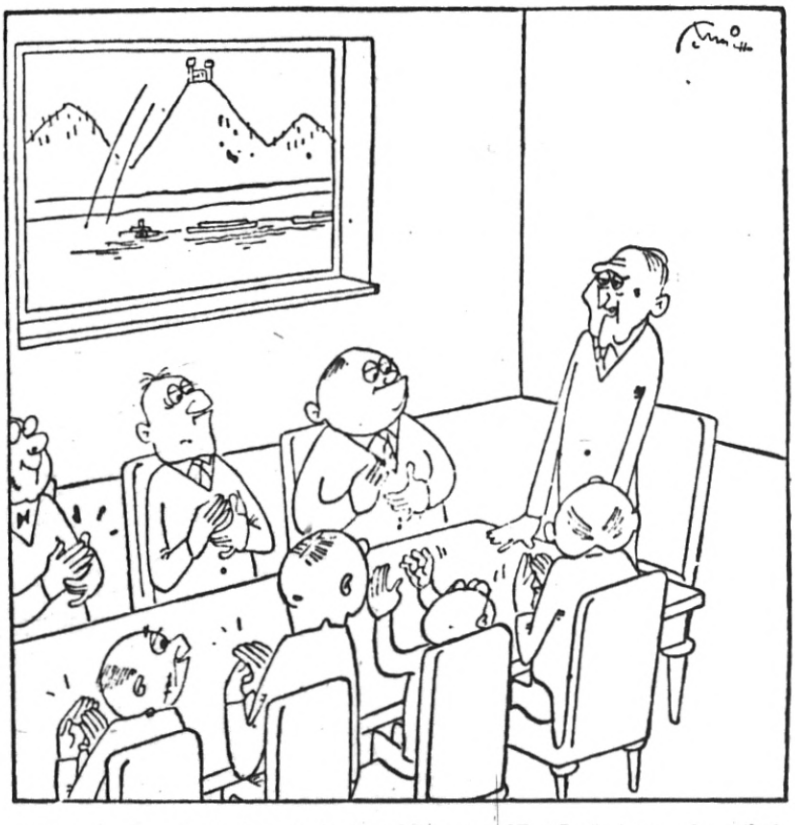
For regular readers of GERMAN REPORT, most of the material in Mr Tetens' book on re-nazification will be familiar. For the past ten years this paper has been presenting, in weekly installments, very many facts about the way the old nazis are getting back into office in the German Federal Republic. But this book gives you in handy reference form a great deal of this material, and it is particularly useful for convincing people who would refuse to be convinced by GERMAN REPORT because it is "red propaganda". All of Mr Tetens' horrifying evidence comes from western sources. This book made a deep impression on the book reviewer of the "New York Times", a newspaper which only the John Birch Society can regard as a communist organ: this is what the "New York Times" had to say on this important book on December 5th:

"The raw material is so astonishing that literary shortcomings can be put aside. The important thing is that Mr Tetens has assembled facts that bear out the accuracy of his book's theme. 'Surveying the entire political structure of the Bonn Republic, one comes to the inescapable conclusion that the Nazis have had a quiet comeback almost everywhere. From the Chancellery down through every cabinet office, through the parties, the parliaments of the Laender, the police, the school system, and the press, former Nazis are deeply entrenched in many key positions, as well as in the middle and lower ranks of the Federal and state government.' This accusation is substantiated with names, ranks and SS numbers — from yesterday and today.

"There is a chapter here called 'Nazis in the Courts' which names names. Many judges and prosecutors were important ex-nazis. Although most of his documentation is right from the free German press, some of it comes from reputable newspapers in England and the United States... This and confirming articles mention the names of seventeen of Hitler's former judges holding office today in the Federal Court at Karlsruhe, Germany's highest tribunal. What do you guess happens when ex-Nazis appear on trial before these judges?

"So it goes on through the book as the author combs through the German bureaucracy today. Each chapter has a list of publications from which the author's research is derived: these are not East German or Communist sources. This last point is noteworthy, since part of the Adenauer Government line is that those who bring up the issues raised by 'The New Germany and the Old Nazis' are following a new enemy's line. The fact that most of these data come from pro-democratic elements and the untainted press gives the lie to the anti-anti-Nazis.

"How did all this come about? The author sums up the train of events: 'In order to understand what has been going on in the Bonn Republic we must consider the three phases of Germany's postwar political development. The first period (1945—47) was notable for the systematic sabotage by most parties of the Allied denazification program. The second period (1948—52) was characterised by attempts to use the licenced parties as vehicles for Nazi propaganda and to bring ex-Nazis into administrative positions. The third period (1953 to present) is marked by the quiet and gradual Nazi infiltration as a consequence of secret talks between high-ranking ex-party members and spokesmen of the leading Government party, the Christian Democratic Union'."



Adenauer: In reply to the attacks from Moscow and East Berlin I can only say that we have completely overcome the nazi problem. The vast majority of old nazis are today members of my Christian Democratic Union.

(Cartoon by Erich Schmitt in "Berliner Zeitung")

THE ROAD AHEAD

By Walter Ulbricht

(The following article consists of passages from the report delivered in late November to the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party by Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Party and Chairman of the State Council of the GDR).

When fascism was defeated in 1945, a great chance was given to Germany to become a country of peace, democracy and socialism. The necessary condition for such a development was that the working class took over power in the state and united all peaceful, democratic and anti-fascist forces.

This was the course taken in that part of Germany which is today the German Democratic Republic. In West Germany, however, the monopoly capitalists of the USA, together with the West German capitalists and militarists, prevented the German people from implementing their historic right to a peaceful and democratic course of development in a united Germany. With the support of the right-wing leaders in the Social Democratic movement, the old reactionary forces have been restored to power in West Germany.

Ruling circles in West Germany have announced through the mouth of their party, the Christian Democratic Union, that in the interests of the bourgeoisie it is no longer possible to pursue a national state policy in Germany. West Germany, they say, can only exist as a NATO state and as a satellite of the USA.

Once again, as earlier in German history, it was the Marxists who represented the national interests of our people, who opposed the policy of partitioning Germany and the establishment of the West German separatist state. It was the Marxists who proposed a peaceful and democratic solution of the German problem, a solution which would even have been acceptable to sections of the bourgeoisie.

Once again, as earlier in German history, the Social Democratic Party, together with the bourgeois parties, sinned against the German nation and its true interests. The policy pursued by the Social Democrats from 1945 to 1961 has helped the monopolists and the militarists to restore their power. In the past 50 years the Social Democratic Party has proved to the hilt that it hinders the natural development towards socialism, and that its reformist policy always helps the bourgeoisie to maintain power. It is ridiculous to believe today that this old false course can lead to anything other than bankruptcy.

We have to say to the right-wing Social Democratic leaders, as we say to the monopolists: It is time for you to step down: You have proved you are unfitted to lead the nation: Step down before you have driven West Germany to complete ruin!

The creation of the separatist West German state and its incorporation in NATO were flagrant breaches of the Potsdam Agreement. This step led naturally to the establishment of two German states. The western powers saw clearly from the very beginning that it would be impossible to implement, without a new world war, that clause of the so-called "German Treaty" which foresaw West German annexation of the German Democratic Republic and the inclusion of the whole of Germany in NATO. West German membership in NATO entails, inevitably, the partitioning of Germany.

The whole German people should be able to see that their real national interests can only be represented by the Marxist-Leninist Party and the National Front of Democratic Germany. The class struggle in Germany has developed to a point where it is clear that imperialism on one side, and national interests, democracy and socialism on the other side are irreconcilable.

The Bonn Government is in favour of NATO, and opposed to a peace treaty with Germany. This means that the Bonn Government is in favour of permanent division, and opposed to reunification. In view of this clearly anti-national position, can there be any doubt that the national and social problems of our people can only be solved under the leadership of the working class? The state which must play the leading role in this development can only be the German Democratic Republic.

The German Democratic Republic is led by the revolutionary party of the working class. In the harsh light of history it is clear that this party is not only entitled to represent the interests of all the working people of Germany, but that it is also entitled to be the only true representative of the German people. Here in the German Democratic Republic, in league with all peace-loving and progressive forces represented in the National Front, we are forming a peaceful and happy future for the whole nation.

Looking into the future we must be quite clear about the following: However international relations may develop in the coming period, however the relations between the two German states may develop; whether the two German states cooperate with each other or not in the immediate future, we shall lead socialism to victory in the GDR in league with the other socialist countries, and will stride ahead on the road to communism. Even if the anti-national policy of Bonn should make the reunification of Germany impossible for a longer period, we shall complete the construction of socialism in the GDR, and begin with the construction of communism.

The programme of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union points out that all countries which are at present constructing socialism will reach the stage of communism in the same historical epoch, without too much time difference. What will our position be? If we had a united Socialist Germany there would not be any particular problem. But our nation is divided; there exist two different German states with differing social systems.

What, therefore, is our position? Can we say that the GDR must wait with the victory of socialism and the construction of communism until the working class and the peace forces in West Germany have overcome imperialism? If this were to happen quickly, it would naturally be of great advantage for the future

In the Next Issue

West German embassies and consulates are strewn thickly throughout the western world. A very high proportion of these West German offices are staffed by old nazis, some of them men with very bad records indeed.

The next issue of GERMAN REPORT will x-ray the West German Foreign Service on the basis of official nazi files, some of which have only recently been discovered.

of the German nation. But the working people of the GDR cannot be expected to mark time indefinitely. When will the working class and the peace forces in West Germany have found the strength to perform their historic mission? We do not know: perhaps it will take five years, perhaps it will take ten years, perhaps even longer.

We cannot make the development of the German Democratic Republic dependent upon the speed of the clash of classes in West Germany, that is to say dependent upon the speed of decay of the capitalist system in West Germany. This would mean in practice that the West German monopolists would be able to delay, possibly for a long period, the construction of a communist society in the German Democratic Republic.

This would mean, objectively, capitulation to West German imperialism and West German capitalism. It would mean, in fact, a liquidation of the great historic role of the first German workers' and peasants' state, and would make its development dependent upon that part of Germany which maintains a backward social system.

It is important not to be deceived by the high grade of technical development reached in West Germany; the role of the human being is the decisive element in the development of a nation and a state, and in West Germany the human beings are oppressed, both morally and politically, by the monopolists, the militarists and the clerical forces.

Here in the German Democratic Republic we are confronted with the task of implementing socialism and passing on to communism, even if West Germany should lag, for a lengthy period, behind world historic developments. Our working class, our intelligentsia, and all other sections of the working population, our industry and agriculture, in close cooperation with the socialist countries, provide all that we need to complete the building of socialism in the German Democratic Republic, and to go ahead with the laying of the foundations for communist society.

Spencer Tracy & the German Problem

Hollywood Film Faces Facts

A new Hollywood film starring Spencer Tracy has taken an honest, intelligent look at the German problem, and in the process has come up with one of the most gripping pictures made in the western world in the past few years. The film is "Judgment at Nuremberg" directed by Stanley Kramer from a screen play written by Abby Mann; and played by a galaxy of Hollywood stars, including Burt Lancaster, Richard Widmark, Judy Garland and Marlene Dietrich.

On the surface, the film deals with the immensely important problem of how it came about that ordinary German people in all walks of life committed and tolerated the appalling crimes perpetrated during the Hitler period; at a second level the film poses a question which is perhaps even more important for today: Given that the western world must defend itself against communism (and this idea is accepted as self-evident), can it do so if it relies on the aid and assistance of the old nazi war criminals?

The film ends with the bleak statement on the screen: "Of the 99 war criminals sentenced in 1949 in the second Nuremberg Trials, not one is today serving his sentence." The film ends there, but audiences all over the world who see this film — every reader of GERMAN REPORT ought to make an effort to see it — will know that these criminals have not simply been released. They are today back at the wheel in West Germany.

Here are some short extracts from reviews of the film "Judgment at Nuremberg" in the British press:

"The Times": "This is a film which, while it appeals, as it cannot help doing, to the emotions, is primarily a matter of intellectual argument — and the argument, of vital importance then, is still of vital importance today... A film which, judged by any standards, is a brave and formidable achievement."

"Daily Express": "From America to Nuremberg comes a small lawyer (Spencer Tracy) to preside over the trial of four Nazi judges on charges of having manipulated Hitler's foul judicial system and sent scores of people to their deaths. And once he reaches Nuremberg the American military mission is quick to hint what is expected of him. 'The Germans are our allies now, don't stir up too much mud', he is told. From all sides the pressures begin to squeeze. Marlene Dietrich, widow of a nazi general hanged for war crimes ... gently assures him that though the Nazi leaders were beasts the German people knew absolutely nothing about what was going on. I shall not forget this film for a long time."

"Daily Worker": At last — a really powerful film that takes an uncompromising stand, not only against nazism, but against the apologists for nazism in West Germany today. There are many formulations in this film with which readers of this paper will not agree ... but these are subsidiary issues compared with the overwhelming force of the film's unshakable and dramatic attack on the policy of 'forgive and forget'. 'Judgment at Nuremberg' is the outstanding American film of the year."

And here is a comment from the West Berlin newspaper **"Der Tagesspiegel":** "Did Stanley Kramer realise that this film will make it difficult for millions of people to avoid being unfairly influenced against the Germany of today. This film is a bitter dish. One must ask oneself for whom it was prepared." (The writer of this review, Karl Silex, was himself a leading nazi journalist).

Win a New Reader

Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

Democratic German Report
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BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

As you will have noticed by the time that you come to this page, this issue of GERMAN REPORT is in a reminiscent mood. Ten years are not a very long time, but our tenth birthday did seem to us to be something which ought to be celebrated. If the form that our celebration has taken is sometimes flippant, this is because we believe that politics and world affairs are such serious affairs that they should be treated lightly every now and then.

When we originally planned this anniversary issue, in fact, we intended to go gay in a big way; but we found it impossible to be particularly funny about neo-nazism and the dangerous situation in Germany today.

Thanks

But enough of excuses for any shortcomings in this issue. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everybody who has helped to keep GERMAN REPORT alive and kicking, and kicking hard, I hope, for the past ten years. First a special word of thanks to Miss Helga Preuss, the young Berliner, who for the past five years has done a major part of the donkey-work entailed in getting the paper printed, published and distributed in time. She combines in her person the tasks of editorial secretary, publisher, circulation manager and bookkeeper, and if she did not run everything so smoothly, then the paper might get written, but it would never get printed or sent out to readers.

Misprints

The other permanent member of the office staff, Mr Victor Grossman, works mainly on the journalistic side, and readers can easily tell when he goes on holiday, because the misprints in the paper then multiply like rabbits. His eye-witness reports on life in the GDR are often printed in the paper under his pen name of Allen Mann; we have been trying to recall why the habit arose for him to write under an alias, but the reasons are lost in the mists of time. Apart from his signed articles, Mr Grossman does a lot of the research and writing for other features in the paper, and somehow finds time to help Miss Preuss with administrative details as well.

That ties up our present staff, but I must also find space to mention Miss Emmi Gruenberg, who did the hard back-room work in the earlier years, and Mrs Joan Becker, an earlier editorial assistant who wrote a number of excellent articles, mainly in the educational field.

And a whole lot of other people here in Berlin really deserve a mention too: the compositors who do a very good job of setting type in a language they do not understand, the printers who make up the paper the way we want it, even though our typographical demands sometimes offend their ideas of what one can and cannot do with type; the addressograph operators who make the address stencils for exotic and almost unspellable places in far corners of the earth; and the postmen who stagger up three flights of stairs with the welcome letters that you, our readers send us. The postmen, incidentally, tend to regard this office as a dump for any letters from abroad with addresses which they cannot decipher.

Far-Flung

But my real thanks go out to all readers of GERMAN REPORT in something like 100 different countries who have done so much to support the paper. Many of our best stories have been the results of tips from far-flung readers, and clippings from their local papers which they sent us.

Let me just pick out a handful for special mention. There is the reader in a small town in Ontario, Canada, who supplies dozens of addresses and who recently, when a West German diplomatic official came to address the local Rotary Club, circularised members with information he had gleaned from GERMAN REPORT on the real facts about remilitarisation in West Germany. There is the pensioner in an American town who, off his own bat, is doing valuable research work in the local library on links between American and West German industry. There is the reader in Birmingham, England, who for years has been sending us valuable lists of local trade unionists and others who should get trial copies of GERMAN REPORT. And there is the reader in Madras, India, who regularly sends us the propaganda sheet put out by the West German Embassy in India which has proved most useful. To all of you, and to many many more, our deepest thanks.

Scoops

One of the features which we had hoped to provide for this anniversary number was a self-laudatory page entitled "Our Scoops", detailing the cases in which GERMAN REPORT scooped the press of the world. When we combed the pages of the back issues, however, we found that our real genuine world scoops, stories which had never been printed before in any paper, were rarer than we thought.

We do not have a big staff combing through the nazi archives: this is an immense job, and we simply do not have the time for it. As a result, the stories which GERMAN REPORT has been able to carry in the past ten years as first English-language newspaper have generally been originated by some newspaper or magazine in the German Democratic Republic, or by some body like the Committee for German Unity here in East Berlin which has the research facilities which we lack. In very many cases we have been able to follow up the lead given by such sources, and present the full story for the first time to the English-speaking world. Limited scoops of this sort have included the first full analysis of the very murky nazi past of Chancellor Adenauer's 1953 cabinet (printed in GERMAN REPORT on October 30th 1953); the first English translation of passages from Dr Globke's fiendish commentary to the nazi Nuremberg Laws (GERMAN REPORT, March 30th 1956); and the first detailed documentations of the nazi records of the present West German ambassadors to Washington and London (GERMAN REPORT February 14th 1958 and September 1st 1961). One of our few absolute world scoops was the disclosure that the nazis had planned to cart away Nelson's Column when they invaded Britain (GERMAN REPORT January 7th 1955).

But there can be no argument about the fact that we have been months or years ahead of most of the British and American press on very many developments, particularly on the re-nazification front. This was very clearly shown in early 1960 when the swastika-smearers got to

The Presley Plan

"The key to the Berlin situation may still be missing; but, since the light-hearted party season is here, we quote one memorable fumble for it. 'All I know,' said the pop record shop customer, 'is that we weren't having all this trouble when Elvis was out there."

("Woman", London, December 16th)

work in West Germany. In papers all over the western world special researchers wrote their weighty pieces on re-nazification, and we were fascinated to note that a very high proportion of them were drawing, directly or indirectly, on material which we had printed months or even years previously. But let this be enough of blowing our own trumpet.

Clip that Cutting

And perhaps this is a good moment to repeat a request we have often made before: if you see a story about Germany in your local paper which you think would interest us, please send it in, clearly marking the newspaper concerned and the date; if you have a question about anything in either of the two German states, please write and ask it; and if you have friends or acquaintances who are interested in the German problem, please send us their names and addresses so that we can send them specimen copies.

And now let us leave this round of cheery congratulation and return to the familiar subjects which have made Berlin Notebook the page of this paper which is apparently read by even those readers who do not find time to read the other pages.

Old-New Gestapo

Regular readers will recall that we have frequently in the past drawn attention to the fact that the judicial authorities and the police forces in West Germany are honeycombed with nazi judges and Gestapo officers. Confirmation, if confirmation was needed, came a week or two ago from an unexpected source.

As you may know, there exists in West Germany a "Central Office for the Investigation of National Socialist Crimes". It was established very belatedly two years ago after the swastika smearings in West Germany had shocked public opinion throughout the world, and was intended as an alibi for the West German Government. "Look", said government spokesman, "we have established a special office to deal with these crimes."

The Central Office in the little town of Ludwigsburg is understaffed, but it has, in fact, in the past two years managed to bring to justice a few nazi criminals. In almost all cases they have been brutal sadists in the lower ranks of the nazi terror machine; the Ludwigsburg Office has been unable or unwilling to take action against really top criminals like State Secretary Hans Globke and General Adolf Heusinger.

(This cartoon was printed in GERMAN REPORT on December 19th 1952)

But at a meeting of the Evangelical Academy in Loccum, West Germany, at the beginning of December, one of the lawyers who works in the Ludwigsburg Centre disclosed that it was almost impossible to track down and bring to justice even those subordinate nazi criminals who have no friends in high places in the West German state. The lawyer, Dr Barbara Just-Dahlmann, told the meeting that it was impossible to use the usual police channels to track these men down "because often high-ranking officers of the criminal investigation department were accomplices of the wanted men."

For this reason, she said, it was useless to circulate the names and descriptions of wanted nazi criminals in the usual hue-and-cry lists.

Even if the nazi criminals were located, Dr Just-Dahlmann said, it was often very hard to find judges and public prosecutors who would handle the cases, for exactly the same reason; they were accomplices of the wanted criminals. She cited specific cases. An SS officer, who could be proved to have committed 12,000 murders, had been released by the court on 12,000 marks bail — one mark per murder; in another case an SS man who had murdered hundreds of children in Poland was released because the charge lodged against him contained a tiny error in the legal formulation, an error which could have been corrected in five minutes.

The Final Twist

All this is horrifying enough, but we have not yet come to the end of the story. A few days after Dr Just-Dahlmann had made her revelations, the Minister of Justice of Baden-Wuerttemberg announced that proceedings had been opened against her "because she had not been officially authorised to make these disclosures." There, for the time being, the matter rests.

"Massive Lesson"

A significant reader's letter, calling for the formation of a lynching bee, was published on December 14th by "Das Freie Wort", organ of the Free Democrats, partners in Adenauer's government. The background to the rabble-raising letter was this: in a previous issue, the newspaper had published one of the routine West German anti-Polish propaganda articles. Erich Kuby, a well-known liberal West German publicist — in Britain he would probably write for the New Statesman or the Observer — sent in a reader's letter protesting about the article which he called war propaganda, and the newspaper published it. This produced the following letter from a certain Friedrich von Scheven, officer of the West German Wehrmacht:

"This man (Kuby) should be given a massive lesson. I shall keep in contact with my colleagues and consider what we can do in order to counter, in the necessary form, Kuby's smearings."

Profumo Nods

Mr Profumo, British Secretary of State for War, should try to get his facts right when he answers questions in the British House of Commons. He was asked on December 13th for details about top-ranking nazi generals in NATO, including war criminal General Heusinger. He replied: "...It is only reasonable that a share of the NATO commands and staff appointments should be held by German officers. After the plot against Hitler's life both General Heusinger and General Speidel spent the rest of the war in the hands of the Gestapo."

On the face of it, it sounds reasonably impressive evidence that Heusinger and Speidel had, though perhaps belatedly, had some part in the plot against Hitler, and thus tried to make up for their lives of crime. Closer examination, however, shows that Mr Profumo's facts are wrong, and that even if they had been right they would not have proved anything.

Heusinger (today Chairman of the NATO Military Committee), and Speidel (Commander, NATO Land Forces, Central Europe), were in fact arrested after the bomb attack on Hitler on July 20th 1944. The fact of their arrest is not significant: what is significant is that they were practically the only generals arrest-

Note to Readers

"Berlin Notebook" generally begins, and ends, on this page. Owing to the stupendous length of the Notebook this week, you will have to turn back two pages to find the beginning. The editor has taken a resolution not to write such a long notebook again for the next ten years.

ed who were not executed, which if it proves anything proves that they had no hand in the anti-Hitler plot. There is, in fact, strong circumstantial evidence that Heusinger gave the Gestapo the evidence which they needed against other officers who had really tried to get rid of Hitler.

Be that as it may, Heusinger himself states quite clearly in his autobiography "Befehl im Widerstreit", published in West Germany in 1950, that he was released two months after his arrest, and received by Hitler at his HQ, where Hitler thanked him warmly for a memorandum which he had prepared while he was in prison. For the remainder of the war he was placed on the "Fuehrer Reserve".

But as I said earlier, even if Mr Profumo's facts had been right, they would have proved little or nothing. It is often forgotten that in the closing stages of the Second World War Hitler issued orders for the arrest of Goering and Himmler. If these orders had been executed, Mr Profumo would presumably trot out the fact today to prove that Goering would be a fit and proper person to command the NATO air forces, and that Himmler was eminently suited to organise NATO intelligence.

Bird-Baths

I suppose there are some people who read every word of the British Parliament's Hansard, or the US Congressional Record, but they must be few and far between. Journalists and others who have to concern themselves professionally with such verbatim reports get into the habit of "reading diagonally", skipping through the pages until they find an important passage, or until an odd word or phrase catches their eye.

I was doing just this with the voluminous report of the session of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party, held in Berlin late in 1961, when just such an unlikely word caught my eye while I was racing through the column inches. I backed up, convinced that I must have been mistaken, because the world I thought I had seen was "bird-bath". Now Central Committee meetings may often deal with fairly abstruse problems ranging from philosophy to production figures for caustic soda, but could they really have been talking about bird-baths?

So I went back and read the paragraph again, and bless me, there it was as large as life: "We have been investigating the price structure and discovered that subsidies were being paid out of the state budget to maintain low prices for such articles as gimlets, bird-baths, and decorated flower-pots. Every sensible person will realise that it is economic madness to pay out subsidies from state funds in order to keep down the price of bird-baths."

The speaker was Mrs Edith Baumann, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the Socialist Unity Party, and she indicated that steps were going to be taken pretty fast to get rather marginal goods like those she mentioned off the list of price-subsidised goods. The German Democratic Republic pursues a very sensible policy of keeping the prices of consumer goods at fixed low levels, but this really was too much of a good thing.

My personal congratulations to Mrs Baumann for getting a bit of humour into the discussions, which sometimes seem to me to be a bit more stodgy and humourless than they need be. What I am waiting for now is for some western propaganda agency to get on to the subject and start a tear-jerking campaign about how the wicked reds are now trying to deprive our feathered friends of their well-earned baths.

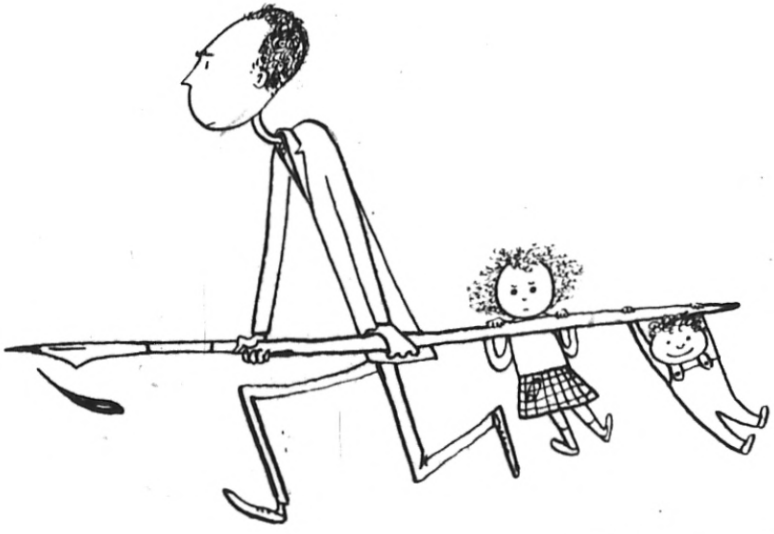
Winning Warders

I always thought in the past that American advertising copy-writers took all the prizes for the glossy vacuity of their copy. They have some British rivals, however, and the English press has recently run large advertisements urging young men to become prison warders which contain the following deathless sentence: "Many new prisons are being opened, and these will create more jobs, more chances of promotion." Did I hear somebody say "police state"?

Family Group

The decorations which grace the front page of this issue and the foot of this column are the work of Elizabeth Shaw, talented Anglo-Irish artist whose work has appeared in the past in the pages of leading British magazines, and who now lives and works in Berlin. She claims that the spider-like character below is a true-to-life portrait of myself: I have my reservations. I can vouch for it, however, that the two small figures hanging on the pen are excellent pictures of my daughter Miriam (age 5) and son David (age 2).

We hope to find space for more drawings by Elizabeth Shaw in coming issues.



The End

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